Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 AID-20 IO-11
UPW-01 RSR-01 /106 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9303

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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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SAIGON 13875 8/28/71

1. GVN "ELECTION INFORMATION CENTER" FOR OBSERVERS AND CORRESPONDENTS OPENED AUGUST 25. ALL FACILITIES DESCRIBED REFTEL ARE IN OPERATION, EXCEPT FOR SPACE FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF COMPETING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. CENTER STAFFED BY 80 PERSONS.

2. CENTER OFFICIALS TOLD CBBOFF THAT ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO SERVE OBSERVERS AND NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS COMING FROM ABROAD FOR ELECTIONS. LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS CAN ALSO UTILIZE CENTER'S FACILITIES. CENTER WILL BE FOCAL POINT FOR TRANSMITTING OFFICIAL RESULTS OF BOTH ELECTIONS TO FOREIGN OBSERVERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

(1) 3. OBSERVERS REGISTERED SO FAR HAVE BEEN MAINLY FROM DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN SAIGON. CENTER OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT ONLY FOREIGN OBSERVERS WHO ARE VOUCHED FOR BY MFA OR THEIR EMBASSIES WOULD BE OFFERED CENTER SERVICES. THREE AMERICAN OBSERVERS REGISTERED SO FAR ARE JAMES SHELDON, IDENTIFIED AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB FOUNDATIONS, ALSO BRUCE KESSLER AND MARTIN MAIL, REPRESENTING VIET-NAM VETERANS FOR JUST PEACE (VVJP). KESSLER AND MAIL ARE HERE UNDER GVN AUSPICES. THEY CURRENTLY TOURING PROVINCES AND WILL DEPART AUGUST 28 AFTER MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE FIVE MORE VVJP OBSERVERS

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COME HERE NEXT MONTH FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ALSO PRESUMABLY UNDER GVN AUSPICES.

4. FOR SUNDAY'S LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS, CENTER PLANNING EARLY MORNING BRIEFING, FOLLOWED BY BUS TOUR OF POLLING STATIONS IN FIRST, FIFTH AND ELEVENTH PRECINCTS IN SAIGON. LATE THURSDAY THE PRESIDENCY ALSO ORDERED SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITS TO ALL FOUR MR'S THIS WEEKEND BY OBSERVERS AND CORRESPONDENTS TO WITNESS LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS. MORE EXTENDED TOUR PLANNED FOR WEEKEND OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, WITH PLANES SCHEDULED TO TAKE OBSERVERS AND CORRESPONDENTS ON THREE-DAY VISITS TO PROVINCES TO OBSERVE VOTING, INCLUDING BRIEFINGS IN MR CAPITALS.
BUNKER

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